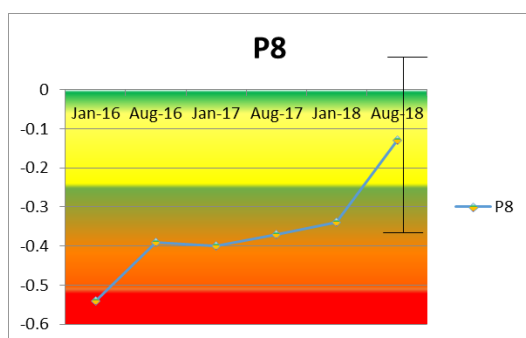


## Dear Parents and Carers

My final correspondence of the year is to wish you all a restful and joyous Christmas holiday. The students have worked hard this term and our exam groups in particular have responded well to the mock exams.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support as I complete 3 years at All Saints Academy. It continues to be a roller-coaster of emotions but the upward trajectory is plain to see in the graph below.



DfE School Rankings	
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Well above average
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span>	above average
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	average
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	below average
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Well below average

When I arrived in November 2015 the Academy was well- below average and in the bottom 10% of secondary schools nationally. In 2016 we moved upwards to a below average school into the bottom 20% of schools. This summer we moved into an average or middle 40% of schools nationally and staff are now aiming to make All Saints Academy an above average school as soon as possible.

There is so much to be proud of here at All Saints Academy. We have high standards and aspirational expectations for all of our students and I am delighted that 87% of you would recommend us to other parents. We will work hard to unpick the other 13% and why you perhaps feel All Saints Academy is not commendable – but we will not lower our high expectations of behaviour and standards.

Best Wishes for 2019!

**Liz Furber**  
Executive Principal

## Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of a long term, I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the Christmas break, although I suspect proper rest doesn't come until at least Boxing Day! Staff and students alike have worked extremely hard over the past few months. I firstly want to thank all the staff, whatever their roles, for the continuing contribution they make to the life of the Academy, and the well-being of our students.

Part of the Christmas tradition is the giving and receiving of gifts. My family will tell you that I am very difficult to buy for because if I want something, I usually go out and get it! But there is one gift that I have been eagerly awaiting, which arrived (somewhat early, last week) in the form of an email. It was an email from Central Bedfordshire Council granting planning permission for our Reflection Centre. This week I placed the order with our construction company, with work hopefully starting on site early in the New Year. The delivery of this long-awaited event, having been over two years in the planning, is now finally in sight.

As we come to the end of the Advent period, the long-awaited event in the Christian calendar comes to a culmination on Christmas Day, as the Church celebrates the birth of Jesus; God's gift to the world. As a Church of England Academy, we mark this special event in different ways, but we are, of course, a place that welcomes those of all faiths and those of no faith. Whatever meaning this time of year has for you, can I take this opportunity, on behalf of the sponsors and governors, to wish you and your family a very peaceful and restful Christmas.

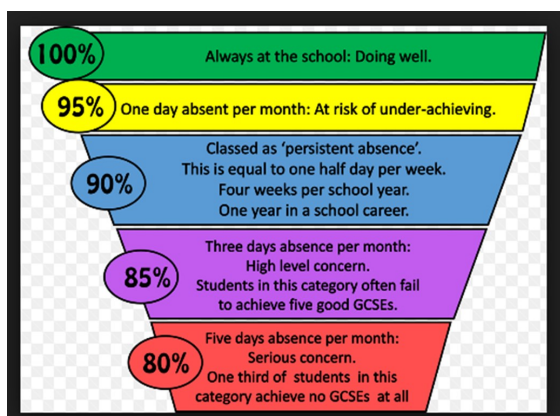
With all good wishes.

**David Fraser**  
Chair of Governors

Reminder;  
Term begins for students on  
Thursday 3rd January 2019

### Attendance Matters

At the end of term, we would like to remind parents/carers that our expectation is that students will attend on every day they are able. There is a clear and proven link between attendance and achievement so full attendance is vital. Please support us by arranging medical and dental appointments outside of school time where possible and by ensuring that your child does come to school unless they are extremely unwell.



Our next reward trip will be linked to attendance and students will need to have achieved 95% or above to participate.

**Elaine Boyd**

Assistant Principal—KS3

### End of Term

We would like to thank all Key Stage 3 students for their contributions to a busy and productive term.

We have had a strong focus on our community and on Living Well Together and we were delighted to welcome our new Ambassadors at our Celebration Assemblies last week.

**Elaine Boyd**

Assistant Principal—KS3

**When parking in the roads surrounding the Academy, can parents/carers please be mindful of residents' driveways.**

### Learning Walks

Students in KS3 have settled into excellent teaching and learning habits across their first term here at All Saints. Evident from a recent learning walk carried out by the KS3 team, it is clear that students are prepared for learning and are actively seeking new understanding; taking joy in sharing their ideas and collaborating with peers effectively. Students apply their previous learning in subjects that they have experienced before and demonstrate determination to learn new content in subjects which they are being taught for the first time. iPads are clearly part of students' learning routines and have a clear impact on student independence in learning. We look forward to seeing students in KS3 continue to thrive in the classroom.

**Alex Hide**

Deputy Assistant Principal – KS3

### **Pantomime Rewards Trip**

At the end of a very busy term, we were really excited to be able to take 174 students from Key Stage 3 to see Snow White at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable. We had all been looking forward to this trip for weeks and staff were just excited as students—this was Mr Rambourg's first pantomime!

With everyone wrapped up well, we walked along to the theatre in groups and settled into our seats on the balcony. The show was really enjoyable and there was lots of enthusiastic audience participation from the All Saints team.



Students who took part in the visit were expected to have 95% attendance or higher and also to have had fewer than 5 behaviour points by the October deadline. We will start planning our Spring Term reward trip after Christmas and the criteria will remain the same. We would welcome suggestions from students as to the type of reward trip they would really value. In the meantime, well done to everyone who has met these high standards and best wishes for the holiday break.

### **Disco**

Thank you to all the students who supported Monday's disco. It was great to see everyone wearing their Christmas jumpers or sparkly outfits. We certainly have some dancers amongst the Key Stage. All money raised at this event will be supporting our students who are travelling to Kenya in 2020 to work on community and charity projects. We will look at running another event in the Spring Term and hope it will be even bigger and better.

### **Reverse Advent Calendars**

Thank you to all the students, form tutors, sixth form mentors and families who supported our Reverse Advent Calendar project. We filled over 30 boxes with treats for those who might be having a difficult time this Christmas and our Form Captains and Living Well Ambassadors delivered them to the New Life Church for distribution.



As always, we can provide support for families facing hardship at Christmas. Foodbank support can be accessed by emailing us after 2nd January on [parentcontact@asadunstable.org](mailto:parentcontact@asadunstable.org).



**Dates for the diary – KS4 Intervention in January 2019.**

**Study Skills for Year 10**

W Band Year 10 students (11:40 – 13:10 & 14:00 – 15:00) 'Strategies for Success' Workshop - 9th January

V Band Year 10 students (11:40 – 13:10 & 14:00 – 15:00) 'Be Awesome Be You' Workshop - 23rd January

W Band Year 10 students (11:40 – 13:10 & 14:00 – 15:00) 'Be Awesome Be You' Workshop - 30th January

**Maths for Year 11**

GCSE Maths Five Day Intensive Programme - 7th – 11th January 2019 (15 students)

Masterclass for High Attainers in Maths - Saturday 12th January 2019 (15 students grades)

Masterclass for High Attainers in Maths - Saturday 26th January 2019 (15 students grades)

GCSE Maths Five Day Intensive Programme - 28th January – 1st February 2019 (15 students)

Maths and English for Year 11 Project 5 Maths & English - 4th – 8th February (30 students)

**English**

Year 10 and Year 11 – Workshops with Graham Elsdon, AQA Lead Examiner

Wednesday - Year 11 boys; Thursday - Year 10 all students; Friday - Year 11 girls

**Andy O'Rourke**

Assistant Principal - KS4

**Year 10 Geography Fieldwork**

On 2nd November our Year 10 Geographers donned wellies and waterproofs to find out how the River Wye changes as it travels downstream. After some initial reticence about being in the water on a chilly day, all our students having seen the Field Studies instructors jump in, followed suit and got hands-on with the data collection. We had a wonderful day outside and the students were able to see geography in action. This will help them in developing their understanding of rivers as well as collect crucial data to be used in their fieldwork investigation. Well done to all the students who took part – we look forward to our next trip in the Summer Term.

**Caroline Room and Gareth Morris**

Director of Natural and Social Sciences and Deputy Assistant Principal for KS4



### **Sixth Form Community**

We are extremely proud of the way the Sixth Form students have helped out around the Academy this term, helping to build the school community. This term our Sixth Form students have helped out with a number of key projects, from helping to organise the Remembrance Service and raising money for a homeless charity during Halloween to mentoring KS3 students and helping out in tutor groups.

**Simon Miller**

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

### **Starting Sixth Form**

Year 11 students will be thinking about their options and what they want to do after their GCSEs. At All Saints Academy, we have an extensive offer for students to consider. We offer a number of A level courses as well as BTECs, meaning we have courses that allow students to prepare for a whole range of pathways. If you are interested or have questions about Sixth Form, please feel free to talk to Simon Miller or Anthony Lee.

**Simon Miller**

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

We would like to remind parents/carers that for the safety of our students, there is no vehicle access to the Academy site between 8.15am and 8.45am every morning and 2.45pm and 3.15pm every afternoon. If you need to access the site during these times, we ask that you park off site and use the pedestrian entrance. Thank you for your support.

### **University**

As we rapidly approach the UCAS deadline, we are delighted with the serious and mature approach our students have taken to their university applications. We have had a number of students applying to university and have had a high number of offers made. Students have applied for a variety of courses that include Medicine, Teaching, Economics, Psychology and Journalism. This is a very stressful period of time, but our students are handling it very well.

**Simon Miller**

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

### **Rewards**

As we come to the end of the first term, we are very proud of the progress that our Sixth Form students have made so far this year. We run a rewards system based on the progress they make relative to their targets, their attendance and their behaviour. We were delighted to run an ice skating trip to Planet Ice in Milton Keynes and look forward to a different trip at Easter.

**Simon Miller**

Assistant Principal - Key Stage 5

### Christmas Showcase

On Thursday 13th December we had our annual Christmas Showcase. This year we performed our own take on Scrooge. The show was a great collaboration where the students worked alongside Sophie Bolton, Jo Goodchild and Nicola Fountain in choreographing and devising. For the Year 7s involved it was their first performance and they did amazingly well! It was also the Year 12 Performing Arts students' first performance together and their first performance exam. Thank you to all the students for their commitment and their families and friends for the continuous support for our shows at All Saints Academy. Thank you for all the donations and ticket purchases that raised a huge £560 to go towards our Peter Pan production which will be on **20th and 21st March 2019.**

**Sophie Bolton**

*'This was my first dance performance and I love being involved with the shows, they really help with my confidence. We all become a Performing Arts family!'*

**Year 9 Caitlin Jones**



### Houghton Hall Park

The inclusion students have been working tirelessly on our project with Houghton Hall Park. We are really pleased with the display and are looking forward to our next project. It's been good working alongside the head gardener, Jenny Osborne. Please go down to the park and take a closer look at the students' work.

The Year 9 Prince's Trust group made Christmas decorations and sold them at the Christingle service. We donated all proceeds to the homeless through the Salvation Army.

Many thanks to Nicola Oxley for working tirelessly on this.

**Alison Spicer**

**Inclusion Manager**





### **Tin Appeal**

We need your tins! Please keep us in mind over the holiday time – rather than putting your sweet and biscuit tins in the bin please send them to the Food Department.



### **All Saints Bake Off!**

This term saw the first annual 'Great All Saints Bake Off' for Year 9 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition students. Over two lessons the students competed to produce the best looking jam tarts, with the winner, Destiny Parker, walking away with her own Chef Hat and Wooden Spoon trophy. The students spent time learning about the science behind the ingredients used in short crust pastry and designing interesting and different jam tarts. Each student worked hard to rise to the challenge and all walked away with great looking jam tarts, confidence in the theories of pastry and more importantly great tasting jam tarts! Well Done!'

**Charlotte Robson**

### **Looking Ahead**

Wednesday 2nd January

**INSET Day**

Friday 18th January

**Year 10 Discovery Day Trip**

Tuesday 22nd January

**Year 10 Parent's Evening**

Tuesday 29th January

**Year 8 Careers Day**

Thursday 7th February

**Sciences taster day at University of Cambridge**

**Year 12 Science students**

Friday 9th March

**UK University and Apprenticeship Search fair**

**Year 12 and 13**

Visit from Major Stephen Brevitt of the Salvation Army Dunstable to receive money and gifts for their work with the homeless and vulnerable families in the local community.



### **Staying Hydrated Through the Day**

It is important that students stay hydrated throughout the day, even during the winter months. Many students visit First Aid with symptoms that could be prevented by drinking water regularly. Students should bring a refillable bottle to school each day and these can be refilled at the water stations located around the Academy. Student Reception sells refillable water bottles for £1 and there is a choice of a plain bottle or one with the Academy logo.